

IFWG Task 2: Draft Work Plan

Revised by CAL FIRE, USFS 2-26-10

Task # 2 Objective:

Determine the effect of the State's existing forest and rangeland regulations (i.e., Sustained Yield Plans, Non Timber Management Plans, wildlife, water quality, erosion protection, etc.) and related programs on meeting the state's GHG goals, whether simple adjustments are needed, or whether more significant action is needed.

Deliverables

- An evaluation, as feasible, of the capacity of existing forest regulatory framework and programs to ensure achievement of Scoping Plan target
- List of concerns and identified regulatory and programmatic gaps,
- Recommendations, if needed, for amending regulations or improving program practices or procedures to ensure that CA forests achieve the Scoping Plan target
- Recommendations, as needed, for longer term analysis, research, demonstration or monitoring of regulatory and other programs' effects on carbon sustainability.

Steps

- 1) Develop a collaborative public involvement process that provides opportunities for stakeholder groups to participate in the development of IFWG findings and recommendations. Workgroup stakeholders should include a wide array of agencies, industry groups, land owners and NGOs covering the variety of interests.
- 2) CAL FIRE and USFS will conduct a meeting or workshop(s) to review and discuss latest information on current forest sequestration rates and sequestration trends.
 - a. Analysis of current forest carbon sequestration using updated FIA plot data as provided in Draft FRAP Assessment
 - b. Information on potential sequestration for short-term (2020) and longer term, including:
 1. Potential FRAP analyses or projections of sequestration potential
 2. Review of CAL FIRE Option A plans
 3. USFS projections of long-term trends and risks
 - c. Work group will work with stakeholders to consider other sources of information related to forest sector sequestration predictions for 2020.
- 3) Work group will review and discuss information about risks to carbon storage and risks of emissions, using analyses from FRAP Forest and Rangeland Assessment Program. This will include risks to harvest, wildfire, conversion and disease and insects.

- 4) Work group will review current regulations and program procedures for maintaining growth, yield and net carbon sequestration
 - a. CAL FIRE will do presentation on Forest Practices Act rules and forestry assistance programs for maintaining and enhancing carbon stocks, e.g., Timber Harvesting Plan process, sustained yield regulations, silviculture rules and post harvest stocking requirements, timberland conversion permitting, reforestation and forest improvement activities.
 - b. Data collection and reporting practices associated with these programs will also be reviewed.
 - c. USFS will review federal forest regulations and project development process, e.g. NFMA and Forest Plans, if desired
- 5) Work group will identify information gaps or concerns about capacity of regulatory and other fire or forestry assistance programs to achieve Scoping Plan 2020 target, plus potential effects of other institutions and sectors on Forest sector ability to achieve target.
 - a. Work group will consider opportunities and barriers to achieving AB 32 target
 - b. Discussion will consider how markets and investment climate affects forest sector actions
- 6) Based on steps above, work group will evaluate adequacy of programs for achieving Scoping Plan 2020 target of GHG sustainability and will recommend changes to programs, if needed, to ensure GHG sustainability, including consideration of inventory improvements from Task #1, program tracking and administration, silvicultural practices, regulations, etc. This information can be used as a starting point for IFWG Task 3 consideration of sustainable utilization of forest biomass for bioenergy purposes.
- 7) Work group will decide whether additional research, analysis, demonstrations, workshops or monitoring, is needed to fill information/program gaps, and will develop a work plan with clear objectives, timeline and resources.